2. Girls Education and the Common School System
3. Universalisation of Secondary Education
4. Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions
5. Integration of Culture Education in the School Curriculum
6. Regulatory Mechanism for the Text Books and parallel text books taught in schools outside the Government
7. Financing of Higher and Technical Education

The CABE Committee have not yet furnished their reports.

Students in rural schools

4047. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NCERT had recently organized a conference of the rural teachers to discuss the National Curriculum Framework review;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the participants had conveyed their concern that rural schools are not getting enough students;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps NCERT proposes to ensure that there are sufficient students in the rural schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As part of the ongoing exercise of the National Curriculum Framework Review, a conference of 104 school teachers from rural areas of various parts of the country was organized from 9 to 12 April, 2005 at the NCERT, New Delhi. The Conference deliberated on emerging issues related to the curriculum practices in the schools of rural India. It was woven around specific themes including—Challenge of Rural Education, Systemic Reforms in Education, Teaching-Learning Processes, Evaluation and Examination, Art, Music, Dance and Theatre in Education etc.

(c) and (d) Though some of the teachers voiced their concern over the decline of student strength in Government schools due to mushrooming of English medium schools in rural areas, no specific data is available to reflect on the magnitude of the problem.

(e) The NCERT pursues a curricular policy stressing on learning through mother tongue and enhancing the quality of education in rural schools. Improvement in curricular practices, including textbooks development, supplementary reading material, training systems, evaluation and examination systems, as well as classroom management systems will contribute to improving access, retention and quality of education in rural Government schools.

Prosecution powers to National Commission for Women

4048. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has powers to prosecute guilty for the offences committed against women and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether it is proposed to empower the Commission with suitable powers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The recommendations made by the National Commission for Women (NCW) in the year 2000 for amendment of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 include provision of initiation of prosecution against a person considered to have committed any criminal offence. The same are under examination of the Government, and have not been accepted so far. The NCW has the powers to fund litigation on behalf of women under the Act.

Suicide by students

†4049. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of existing education system and commercialisation thereof tragedy like suicide among students has arisen due to increasing competition among students and failure in the same;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.